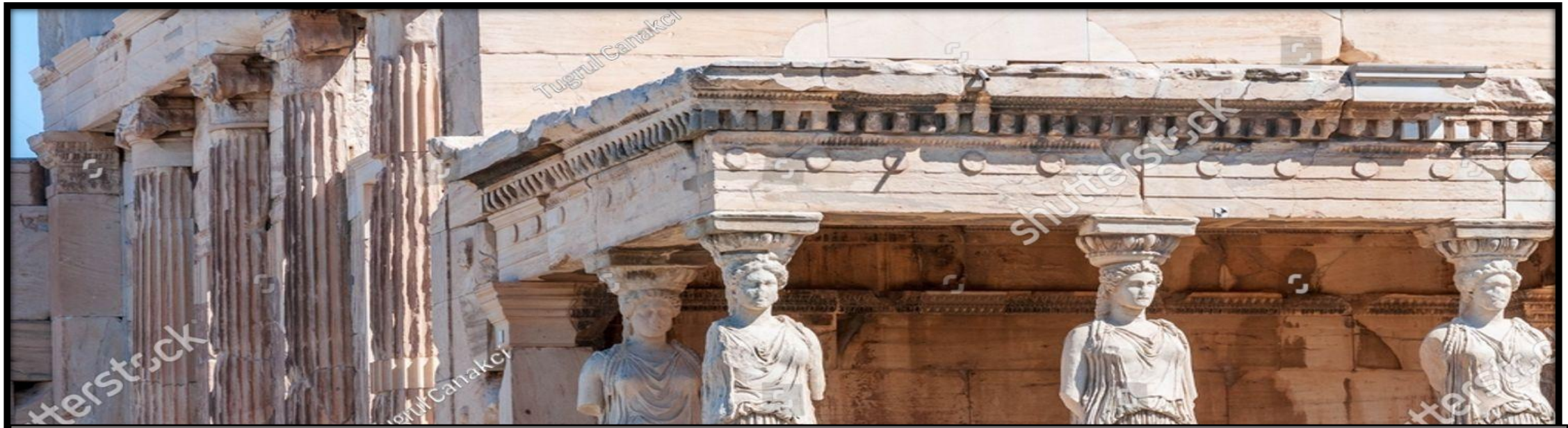


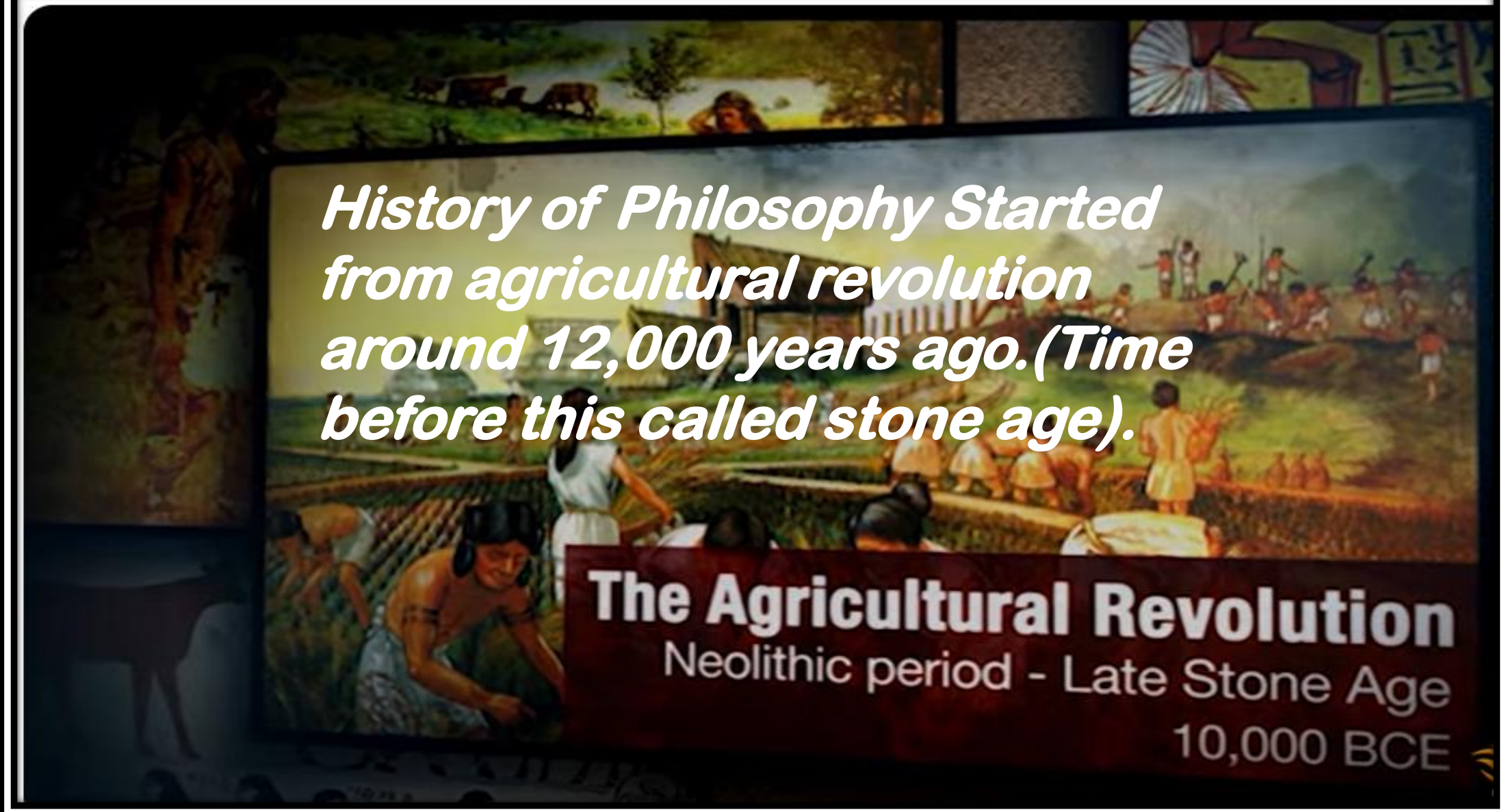
History of Greek Philosophy

Dark ages (1100-800BCE)

Archaic Era(800-480)

Classical Era (510-333)

Hellenistic Era(323-146)


History of Philosophy Started from agricultural revolution around 12,000 years ago.(Time before this called stone age).
The Agricultural Revolution
Neolithic period - Late Stone Age
10,000 BCE

History of Human civilization and Oldest Cities

Philosophy started when human being started thinking and writing.

Human civilization started from agricultural history as fertility started from the cities and civilizations near water.

Ancient cities includes:

Aleppo the city of Syria 9000 BCE

Jericho city of Palestine 8000 BCE

Susa in Iran (6000 BCE),

Egypt (6000 BCE),

Indus Valley (5000 BCE)

Xia Dynasty China (4000 BCE).

Civilization through Bronze to Iron and Steel Age

- Bronze age (6000 years ago) bronze came into use. Bronze was made through the combination of copper and tin. This era evolved as surplus product time and ended up with tribal and kingdom ship.(ruler class, state and slavery).Started ruling women through job description and skills. Slavery came into being around 6000 years ago.
- Iron age 3000 : First time in Nigeria iron has come into use.
- Steel age 2000 : Iron with combination of carbon made steel. Steel was stronger than Iron even can cut iron as well. During this time man started writing. It was about 3200 BCE.

Greek History of Philosophy

- Something extraordinary in the history of humanity occurred 2,500 years ago in Athens—much of our cultural heritage descends from a very small population of landowners, farmers and sailors during a surprisingly short space of time. They organized themselves into a radically democratic government. They held as a high ideal the dignity and freedom of an individual free man. They produced sculpture and architecture which set the standards by which these arts are still measured, and they laid the foundations of our philosophy, mathematics and sciences.

GREEK DARK AGE- 1100-800 BCE

- Lives in small groups and were illiterate. Later in the Dark Ages (between 950 and 750 BCE).
- New alphabet system was adopted by the Greek, and borrowed from the Phoenician writing system.

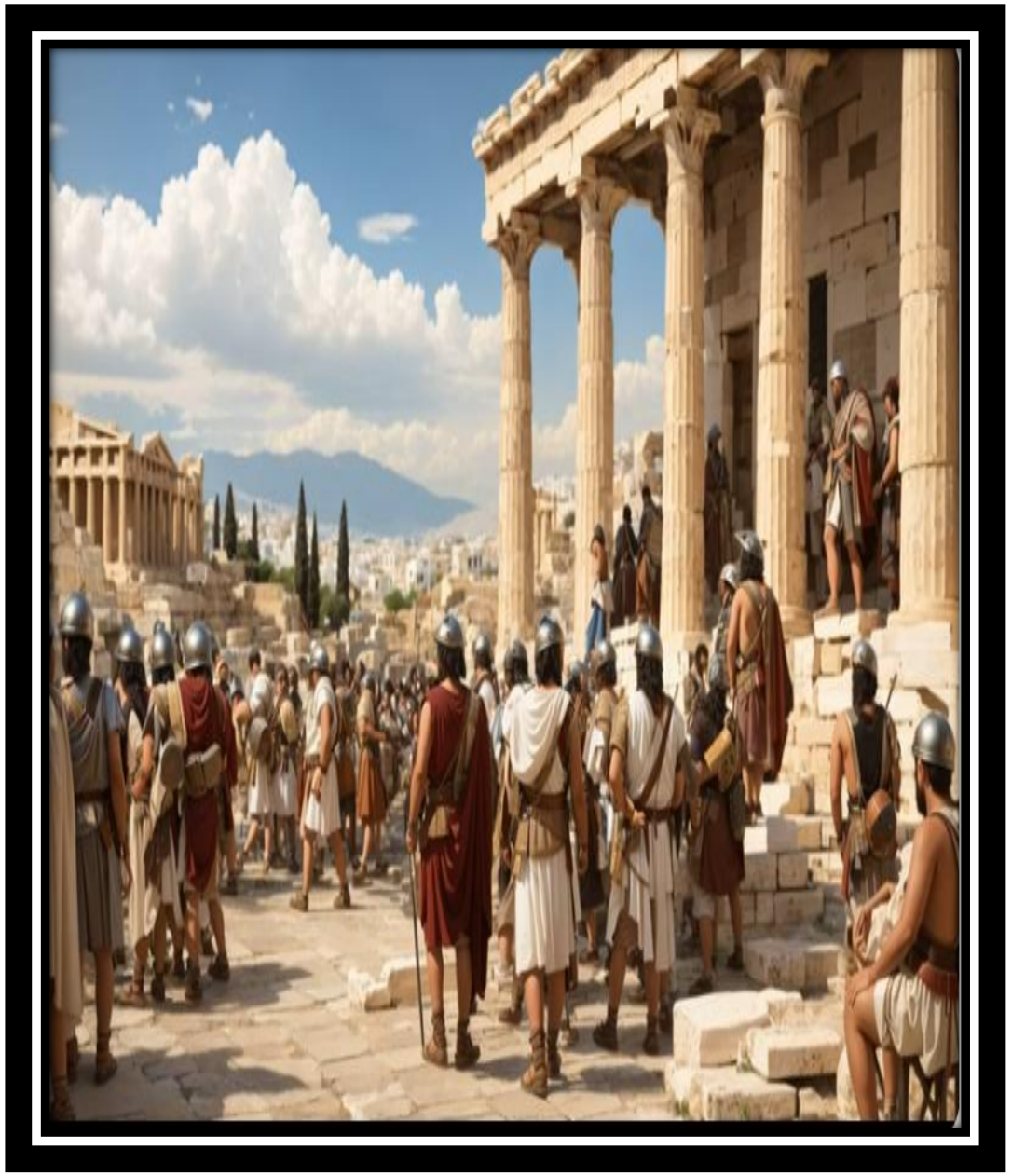
- Called as Pre-Socratic Philosophy. Famous Philosophers:
- Thales
- Xenophanes of Colophon
- Pythagoras and Pythagoreanism
- Heraclitus
- Parmenides and Zeno
- Anaxagoras
- Democritus and Atomism
- The Sophists

- The classic time of Greek Philosophy. Famous as Socratic Era of Philosophy or thought.
- Socrates
- Plato
- Aristotle

- Includes the following schools of Philosophy
- Cynicism
- Stoicism
- Skepticism
- Hellenistic Philosophy

Dark Ages 1100-800 BCE

The Greek Dark Age refers to a time period between the end of the Mycenaean civilization and the start of the Greek Archaic Period. The Mycenean civilization is the group of peoples who flourished during the Late Bronze Age or from 1700 to 1100 BCE. The cultures of this region and time were associated with the legendary stories of Bronze Age heroes like Odysseus and Achilles during the Trojan War and the militaristic king Agamemnon.



Historical Picture of Dark Ages of the Greece

- From the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age. Historians believe this period was violent, sudden, and culturally disruptive.
- Many historians attribute the fall of the Mycenaeans, and overall, Bronze Age collapse, to climatic or environmental catastrophe combined with an invasion by the Dorians (or Sea Peoples).
- During the Dark Ages, Greece was most likely divided into independent regions according to kinship groups, and the oikoi, or households.
- Toward the end of the Greek Dark Ages, communities began to develop that were governed by elite groups of aristocrats, as opposed to singular kings or chieftains of earlier periods. Additionally, trade with other communities in the Mediterranean and the Levant began to strengthen, based upon findings from archaeological sites.

Whys called Dark Ages

- Lack of Written Records: Unlike the preceding Mycenaean period, which had a rich tradition of writing (e.g., Linear B script), the Dark Age saw a significant decline in literacy
- Cultural Regression: There was a noticeable decline in material culture.
- Population Decline and Migration: The period witnessed a decline in population.
- Disruption of Trade: The collapse of the Mycenaean civilization disrupted established trade routes and networks.
- Limited Archaeological Evidence:

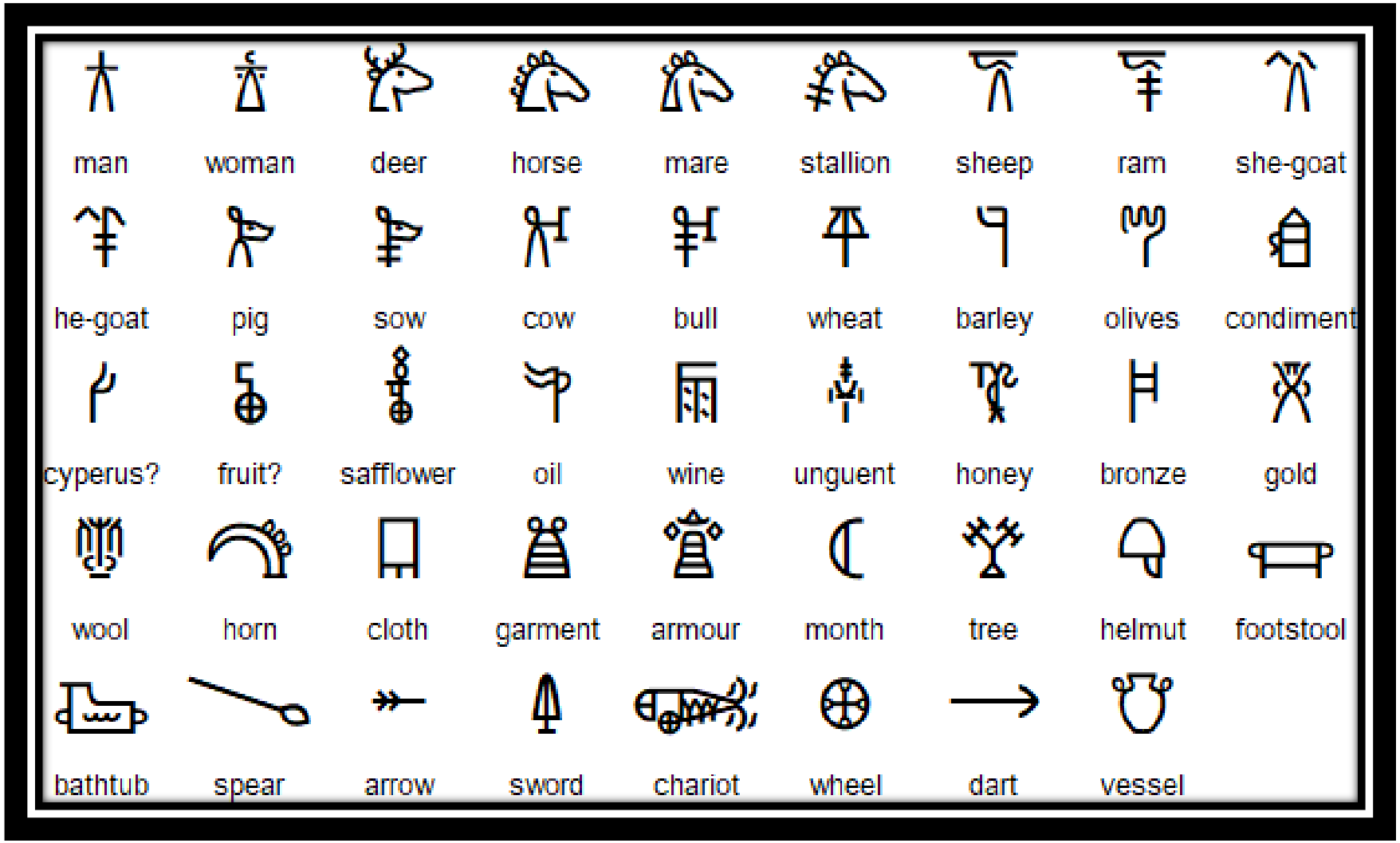
Phoenicians Writing System

- Greeks relearned how to write once again, but this time instead of using the Linear B script used by the Mycenaean's, they adopted the alphabet used by the Phoenicians “innovating in a fundamental way by introducing vowels as letters. The Greek version of the alphabet eventually formed the base of the alphabet used for English today.” (Martin, 43).
- This writing system introduced characters for vowel sounds, creating the first truly alphabetic (as opposed to abjad) writing system. The new system of writing spread throughout the Mediterranean, and was used not only to write in Greek, but also Phrygian and other languages.

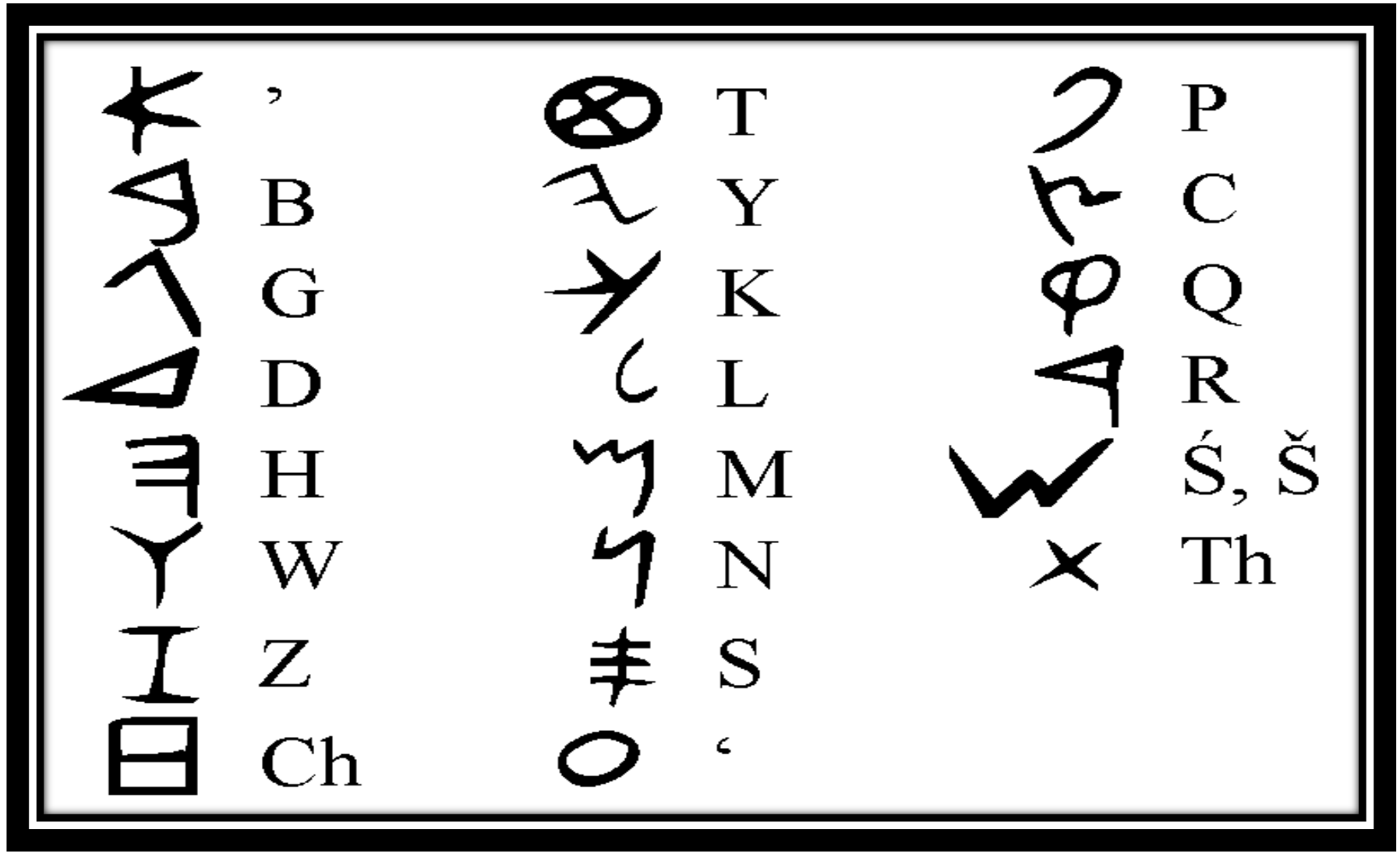
Difference between Phoenicians and Mycenaean's.

- **Phoenicia** was civilization originated in eastern Mediterranean, primarily located in modern Lebanon and coastal Syria or Israel.
- **Mycenaean** are ancient Greeks originated in Bronze Age.(1750 to 1050 BC) developed sophisticated sociopolitical culture of their own.

Linear B script used by the Mycenaean's



Alphabet used by the Phoenicians



The Iliad

Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* were written around 800 BCE

Homer’s Philosophy

- Writings include Iliad and Odyssey written around 750 BCE-550.Based on religious beliefs in form of poetry.
- Olympians' religious beliefs were the subject of Homer’s philosophy which have attributes of human beings.
- Homer was a series of poets in one opinion of historians.
- Athen's youth has to learn Homer by heart as part of their education.
- Philosophy includes, Religious beliefs, Romances, Aristocracy(Landed upper class).

HESIODI AS-

CRAEI OPERA ET DIES,

NVNC CASTIGATIVS

VERSAE, AVTORE VL-

PIO FRANEKEREN-

SI FRISIO.

OVSAE Pierides, præstantes laude

Works and Days by Hesiod 700 BCE

Written literature of the Dark ages

- Though the Dark Ages of Greece are associated with a decline in art, this period of time did see the emergence of the writer and poet Homer, the author of both the Iliad and the Odyssey. Historians think Homer lived sometime between 900 and 800 BCE.
- Home was an Ancient Greek poet who is credited as the author of the Iliad and the Odyssey, two epic poems about the Trojan wars.
- Iliad centers on a quarrel between King Agamemnon and the warrior Achilles during the last year of the Trojan War. The Odyssey chronicles the ten-year journey of Odysseus, king of Ithaca, back to his home after the fall of Troy.

Class Hierarchy in Greeks

- Prominent cities-Athens and Sparta.
- Aristocracy-Ruler class
- Free Man- Middle class or(Demos) Demo gage are called representative.
- Slaves -Non-Greeks who used to serve.
- In Sparta aristocracy was strong and Athens demos or free men were strong.
- Tyrant called those who used to take from aristocratic and give to poor.